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PETER McVICAR.

By G. P. GRIMSLEY.

REV. PETER McVICAR was born in New Brunswick, Canada, in 1829. When thirteen years of age he moved to Waukesha, Wis., where he lived until 1860, when he became one of the pioneers of Kansas, to work for the welfare and progress of this state.

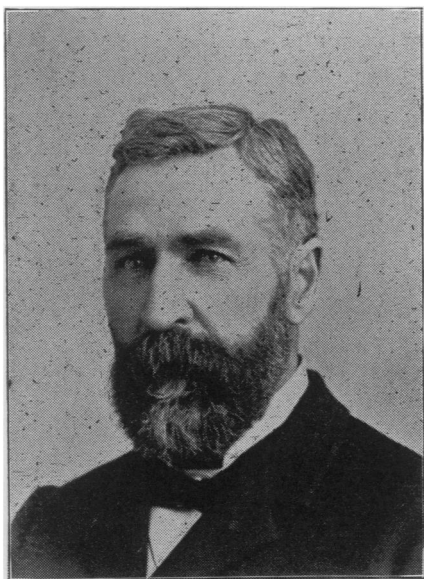
He graduated with honor from Beloit College in 1856 and took a course in theology at Union and Andover Seminaries, graduating in 1860. In 1863 he was married, at Waukesha, Wis., to Miss Martha Porter Dana, who survives him, with one son, Dana Collins McVicar, and one daughter, Mary McVicar Morris. His first charge was that of the First Congregational Church of Topeka. In 1866 he resigned his pastorate and entered the educational field, where he achieved such great success, and that year was elected the fourth superintendent of public instruction of Kansas, a position held for four years. His bold perseverance and strong courage established the school funds of the state on a firm basis in the face of the strongest opposition, and as a result 500,000 acres of valuable land were saved for a permanent school fund.

In 1865 Doctor McVicar aided materially in the organization of a Congregational college, and was made president of its board of trustees from the beginning. In 1871 he was elected to the presidency of the college, succeeding Doctor Butterfield. At this time there were two professors and a small number of students. This position he held until compelled to resign by ill health in 1896, when he was made president emeritus.

During this quarter-century of active work in Washburn College, Doctor McVicar, mainly by his own efforts, established an endowment fund of \$100,000, and added \$160,000 in buildings, located on a campus valued at \$200,000. Washburn College to-day in its prosperous condition, with its very bright future, stands as a fitting memorial to this man.

After the failure of health his interest continued in the welfare of this institution, and he remained as a member of the board of trustees taking part in its meetings up to the time of his death, June 5, 1903, having reached the age of seventy-four years.

Doctor McVicar was not only a pioneer in the public schools and colleges of Kansas, but also in our Academy. In the original call for "all persons interested in natural science to meet in Topeka on the



DR. PETER McVICAR.

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first Tuesday of September next (1868), at the college building, for the purpose of organizing a state natural history society," we find among the signatures on this paper, Peter McVicar. From that day on, he was interested in the growth of the Kansas Academy of Science, and in 1898 he was elected a life member of the Academy.

In the death of Doctor McVicar the state has lost a useful citizen, education a self-sacrificing and sturdy supporter, the Academy of Science a devoted friend; but there remains for each of us, the noble example of a life simple yet strong, consecrated to the welfare of fellow mankind, an example to be studied and followed for our advancement in all the paths that lead to a successful career.